



Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools



WEA
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Take the Lead – It's time!

State Board of Education

June 15, 2006



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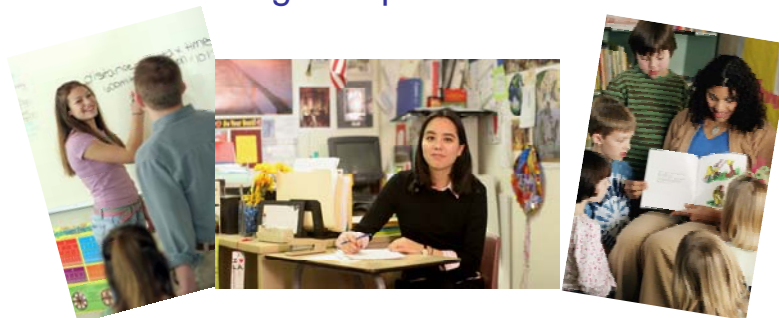
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What is **Take the lead**?

Take the lead is a long-term effort to permanently increase funding for Washington's public schools.





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Who is behind **Take the lead?**

80,000 Washington public school teachers, support professionals and higher education faculty



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Why is it necessary to proceed with **Take the lead?**

Our public education system ranks far behind the rest of the nation in:

- Class size
- Spending per student
- Our ability to hire and retain quality educators





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Washington's numbers are shocking:

- **42nd** in the nation in class size
- **46th** in the nation in education spending
- **\$2 billion** less for schools due to not keeping pace
- **\$548** less spent per student than in 1992
- **Dead last** in compensation of the five West Coast states



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What's behind the numbers besides the facts?

Real people with real stories...





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We've fallen way behind...

46th in class size

"On average I can only spend 2.7 minutes a day with each of my 45 students – less time than an espresso barista spends talking to a customer."

Betsy Andrews,
English Teacher
Auburn High School



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We've fallen way behind...

42nd in education spending

"I have 40 sophomores who need textbooks to pass the WASL and my district doesn't have the money to buy them so I use the \$50 that they give me to supplement my curriculum and it doesn't go very far."

Jamie Gonzalez,
English teacher
Grandview High School





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We've fallen way behind...

\$2 billion less for schools due to spending not keeping pace...

"Supply budgets are so tight we are forced to limit each teacher to \$100. We cut off spending by February 1 to squeeze more out of less. We do everything we can, but we need the community to understand the energy, effort and love behind running a school with such limited resources."



Suzanne Gottgetreu,
Elementary Office Coordinator
Tacoma



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We've fallen way behind...

\$548 less per student compared to 1992, as inflation has risen and demands have increased.

"My number is two because that's the number of antique desks I've purchased at garage sales so that each of my kids has a place to sit while learning government."



Brian Davis,
U.S. History and government teacher
Southridge High School, Kennewick



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We've fallen way behind...

Dead last in compensation among the five West Coast states

"My number is 20,000. That's the number of dollars more my sister will make her first year at an entry-level management position than I'll make my first year teaching."



Jason McMillan
Senior
Washington State University



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When do we expect **Take the lead** to succeed?

Many factors will contribute to its success:

- Washington Learns
- Potential Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) lawsuit
- November elections
- Growing public support to make permanent change
- Collective will of the voters that it's time to **Take the lead** for our children.



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How will **Take the lead** become something bigger than the WEA?

It's already happening....

Teachers

Parents

Students

Business Leaders

Legislators

Media

Education stakeholders

Communities of Color

Civic organizations

Churches

Labor groups



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It's time we each do our part to ensure every child in our state has access to a quality education.

It's time to **Take the lead.**



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"You're kidding! You count S.A.T.s?"